

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A method for determining whether a client ac-
2 cepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:
- 3 a.) receiving a request for a resource, the request originating at a
4 client;
- 5 b.) determining whether the request for the resource includes a visi-
6 tor identifier;
- 7 c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier:
8 obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;
9 determining that the client accepts visitor identifiers; and
10 transmitting the requested resource to the client;
- 11 d.) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier and
12 responsive to the request not including an indicator that re-
13 direction has occurred:
14 assigning a new visitor identifier;
15 sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier
16 to the client, the redirection request including an indi-
17 cator that redirection has occurred;

18 responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier, de-
19 termining that the client accepts visitor identifiers;
20 responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identifier,
21 determining that the client does not accept visitor
22 identifiers; and
23 transmitting the requested resource to the client.

1 2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the visitor iden-
2 tifier comprises a cookie.

1 3. (Previously presented) A method for determining whether a requestor
2 accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:
3 a.) receiving a request for a resource from a requestor, the requestor
4 having an address;
5 b.) determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier;
6 c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier:
7 c.1) obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;
8 c.2) determining that the requestor accepts visitor identifiers;
9 and
10 c.3) transmitting the requested resource to the requestor; and
11 d.) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier:

d.1) determining whether the request includes an indicator
that step d.3) has been performed;

d.2) responsive to the request including the indicator that
step d.3) has been performed:
assigning a visitor identifier from the requestor's address;
determining that the requestor does not accept visitor
identifiers; and
transmitting the requested resource to the requestor;
and

d.3) responsive to the request not including the indicator
that step d.3) has been performed:
assigning a new visitor identifier;
sending to the requestor a redirection request including
the new visitor identifier and an indicator
that step d.3) has been performed, the redirection
request being adapted to cause the requestor to retransmit the request for the resource; and
repeating steps a-d.

1 4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the visitor iden-
2 tifier comprises a cookie.

1 5. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~4~~ 3, wherein determining
2 whether the request for the resource includes a visitor identifier comprises:
3 comparing the visitor identifier with a range of valid visitor identi-
4 fiers; and,
5 in response to the visitor identifier being outside the range of valid
6 visitor identifiers, indicating that the request did not include
7 the visitor identifier.

1 6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the visitor iden-
2 tifier comprises a cookie.

1 7. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~4~~ 3, further comprising:
2 d e. categorizing data sent with the request for the resource by at
3 least one selected from the group consisting of a visitor iden-
4 tifier, a page identifier, and a time stamp.

1 8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the visitor iden-
2 tifier comprises a cookie.

1 9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, further com-
2 prising:

3 repeating steps a-d for a predetermined amount of time.

1 10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, further com-
2 prising:

3 repeating steps a-d until receiving a particular request for a re-
4 source.

1 11. (Previously presented) A data collection server for determining
2 whether a requestor accepts visitor identifiers, comprising:

3 a communication interface for receiving a request for a resource
4 from a requestor and sending a visitor identifier;

5 a cookie handler coupled to the communications interface for per-
6 forming the steps of:

7 a) determining whether the request includes a visitor identi-
8 fier;

9 b) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier:

10 b.1) obtaining data associated with the visitor identi-
11 fier;

b.2) determining that the requestor accepts visitor
identifiers; and

b.3) causing the communication interface to transmit
the requested resource to the requestor;

c) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier:

c.1) determining whether the request includes an indi-
cator that step c.3) has been performed;

c.2) responsive to the request including the indicator
that step c.3) has been performed:

assigning a visitor identifier;

determining that the requestor does not accept
visitor identifiers; and

causing the communication interface to trans-
mit the requested resource to the re-
questor;

c.3) responsive to the request not including the indica-
tor that step c.3) has been performed:

assigning a new visitor identifier;

causing the communication interface to send to
the requestor a redirection request in-
cluding the new visitor identifier and an

33 indicator that step c.3) has been per-
34 formed, the redirection request being
35 adapted to cause the requestor to re-
36 transmit the request for the resource;
37 and
38 a session controller coupled to the cookie handler for signaling a
39 session end for a particular visitor identifier; and
40 a repository for:
41 storing data sent with the request for the resource;
42 responsive to the request including a visitor identifier, stor-
43 ing data associated with the visitor.

1 12. (Previously presented) The data collection server of claim 11, wherein
2 the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

1 13 to 17. (Canceled).

1 18. (Currently amended) A computer program product having computer
2 readable code embodied thereon, said computer readable code for programming
3 one or more computers to perform a method for determining whether a client
4 accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

- 5 a.) receiving a request for a resource, the request originating at a
6 client;
- 7 b.) determining whether the request for the resource includes a visi-
8 tor identifier;
- 9 c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier:
10 obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;
11 determining that the client accepts visitor identifiers; and
12 transmitting the requested resource to the client;
- 13 d.) responsive to the request not including the visitor identifier and
14 responsive to the request not including an indicator that re-
15 direction has occurred:
16 assigning a new visitor identifier;
17 sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier
18 to the client, the redirection request including an indi-
19 cator that redirection has occurred;
20 responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier, de-
21 termining that the client accepts visitor identifiers;
22 responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identifier,
23 determining that the client does not accept visitor
24 identifiers; and
25 transmitting the requested resource to the client.

1 19. (Previously presented) A computer program product having computer
2 readable code embodied thereon, said computer readable code for programming
3 one or more computers to perform a method for determining whether a re-
4 questor accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

5 a.) receiving a request for a resource from a requestor, the requestor
6 having an address;

7 b.) determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier;

8 c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier:

9 c.1) obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;

10 c.2) determining that the requestor accepts visitor identifiers;

11 and

12 c.3) transmitting the requested resource to the requestor; and

13 d.) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier:

14 d.1) determining whether the request includes an indicator

15 that step d.3) has been performed;

16 d.2) responsive to the request including the indicator that

17 step d.3) has been performed:

18 assigning a visitor identifier from the requestor's ad-

19 dress;

20 determining that the requestor does not accept visitor
21 identifiers; and
22 transmitting the requested resource to the requestor;
23 and
24 d.3) responsive to the request not including the indicator
25 that step d.3) has been performed:
26 assigning a new visitor identifier;
27 sending to the requestor a redirection request includ-
28 ing the new visitor identifier and an indicator
29 that step d.3) has been performed, the redirec-
30 tion request being adapted to cause the re-
31 questor to retransmit the request for the re-
32 source; and
33 repeating steps a-d.

1 20. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 19,
2 wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

1 21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the received
2 request identifies a resource, and the redirection request identifies the resource
3 identified by the received request.

1 22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the received
2 request identifies an address, and the redirection request identifies the address
3 identified by the received request.

1 23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein sending a redi-
2 rection request comprises sending a redirection request including an indicator
3 that step c) has been performed.

1 24. (Canceled).

1 25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the received
2 request identifies a resource, and the redirection request identifies the resource
3 identified by the received request.

1 26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the received
2 request identifies an address, and the redirection request identifies the address
3 identified by the received request.

1 27 to 29. (Canceled).

1 30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 repeating steps a-d until reaching a session expiration.

1 31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2 repeating steps a-d until reaching a session expiration.